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WHEN BUYING SHEETS

Certain facts about such household furnishings as sheets help the buyer to get good value for her money. A good sheet, according to _____ (name), _____ (title), at _____ (institution), is firm in weave, is practically free from sizing, is torn rather than cut from the bolt, and is hemmed with strong thread and short even stitches, 12 to 14 to the inch. There are five main classes of sheets to choose from. In the muslins there are heavy weight, medium weight, and light weight, then there are fine counts and percales.

A muslin sheet that looks substantial but has a low thread count will prove to be woven loosely and will not wear well. Muslin sheets satisfactory for everyday household use have a finished thread count ranging from 70 to 80 in the warp and from about 61 to 70 in the filling.

Durable sheets are made in many different weights. If a sheet is light in weight it may be because it is made of very fine yarns, as in a percale sheet, although it may be because it is sleazy and poor in quality.

Sizing may make a sheet appear heavy when it is really light weight and low in thread count. "Pure finish" means the minimum amount of sizing needed to keep the threads from breaking in the looms.

A textile expert uses an instrument to measure "breaking strength", but the customer must go by the label information on this point,

if given. Medium-weight sheets should range from 55 to 70 pounds in the warp direction and from 41 to 61 pounds in the filling.

When a sheet is labeled a "first" or a "standard quality" this means that it is practically free from weaving imperfections, such as uneven yarns, or thick or thin places. Sheets marked other than firsts should be sold at a lower price than a first.

For general use, most people prefer sheets 99 or 108 inches torn length; for a single bed, 63 inches wide; for a twin bed or three-quarter bed, 72 inches; for a double bed, 81 or 90 inches wide.

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